

THE SPARK GAP

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

BPL COMES TO MORGAN CO.

In the recent newsletter for the members of the Morgan County REMC there was news of the availability of Broadband Over Power lines. The service is to cost about \$ 26.00 per month per household hook-up and the REMC customers were urged to take advantage of this service. A friend of mine at work showed me the article and she seemed really excited that it would be so inexpensive to have this faster access to the Internet and other services in her home.

I read the article and we talked about BPL. I asked her if she had ever heard of BPL before and she told me that it was new to her. She sat down in a chair in my cube and I showed her one of the videos located on the ARRL web site showing the effects of BPL on the Amateur Radio frequencies. She was surprised on the amount of interference caused by BPL and had a different look at this new service. She asked if any other frequencies would be effected and I showed her a chart of the radio spectrum with the range of frequency that would interfere with communications. Again she was surprised to see that the AM commercial frequencies as well as part of the air traffic control would also have interference she had a completely different look at BPL. She told me that BPL “may not be the best deal after all”. Then she asked me, “Why doesn’t the public know more about this and the problems it will cause?”

When traveling through Morgan County around Paragon please take a listen for BPL.

..... Bob, N9SIU

**MANY THANKS TO THOSE THAT HELPED WITH THE
“GOBLIN PATROL” ON HALOWEEN EVENING.
THERE WASN’T MUCH NOTICE IN ADVANCE BUT YOU
RESPONDED WHEN NEEDED.**

SKYWARN NEWS

Earlier this month there was a major change in the repeater system used for the Central Indiana Severe Weather nets. The WB9OPR repeater 146.970 MHz was forced to change it’s longtime location on the Channel 40 tower located on the North side of Indianapolis. The repeater is not as high profile at the new location as it once was. Hopefully this will be a temporary situation and the repeater can find a new location that will be more accessible on 2 Meter.

In the meantime if severe weather should occur the W9ICE repeater 442.650 MHz will be used. All the other systems linked into the original system will remain intact and should work fine.

Remember, if there is severe weather in the area please tune your radio to the 442.650 MHz repeater.

..... Bob N9SIU

ARRL BULLETIN

Newington CT November 11, 2004
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB035
ARLB035 W1AW 2004 Frequency Measuring Test set

There's a new twist to the ARRL Maxim Memorial Station W1AW Frequency Measuring Test (FMT). The 2004 FMT takes place November 18 starting at 0245z (the evening of Wednesday, November 17, in US time zones), replacing the W1AW phone bulletin normally transmitted then. Rather than measuring the transmission's carrier frequency, participants in this year's FMT will attempt to accurately determine the frequency of an audio tone. Engineer and ARRL Contributing Editor Ward Silver, N0AX, says measuring an audio tone will reinforce understanding of the relationship between carrier frequency and the components of a transmitted signal.

"The carrier is suppressed for SSB signals, leaving only the sideband components," Silver explains in "The FMT Strikes a New Tone," in November QST. "The frequency of components of the modulating audio signal is preserved as the difference between the carrier frequency and the transmitted component. A single modulating tone results in a single transmitted component."

W1AW will make the 2004 FMT transmissions on 80, 40 and 20 meters. The FMT will begin with a general W1AW "QST" starting at 0245z sent simultaneously on the three W1AW transmission frequencies. The test itself will consist of three 60-second tone transmissions on each band, followed by a station identification. The whole test will run for about 15 minutes and will end with a station ID.

The tone frequency will be the same on all three bands.

During the 2004 FMT, W1AW will indicate the band on which participants should measure. After the initial call-up, W1AW will begin the test by announcing, "Now 80 meters." Except for the tone transmission, all transmissions will be voice. Frequencies are 3990 kHz (LSB), 7290 kHz (LSB) and 14290 kHz (USB), and all frequencies will be accurate to at least 0.1 ppm (eg, 3990, +/-0.4 Hz).

Submitted reports should include name, call sign, location, time of reception and, of course, the tone frequency. Those using an indirect measurement method also should include calculations showing how they arrived at the tone frequency. For additional details on indirect and direct measurement methods, see Silver's article "The

ARRL Frequency Measuring Tests," on the ARRL Web site,
<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/0210051.pdf>, or in October 2002 QST.

Send entries postmarked by Friday, December 17, 2004, to W1AW/FMT,
ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Separate reports for each
band are welcome. All entrants qualify for a Certificate of
Participation. Those coming closest to the measured frequency will
be listed in the web test report and get special recognition on

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Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets at 0800 EST the third Saturday of each month at the Johnson County
Law Enforcement Center in the Emergency Operations Center. All hams are

encouraged to attend this meeting and VE testing is held January through November after the meeting has ended.

MARC operates the 146.835 MHz (151.4 PL) repeater and all hams are welcome to use it.

For more information please visit our club web page at: <http://www.midstatehams.org>